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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

9 FEBRUARY 2022

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Merced - 'Smash-and-Grab' Robbers Acted 'Casual' During Jewelry Heist

(U) The 10 to 15 sledgehammer-wielding suspects accused of orchestrating a smash-and-grab robbery at a jewelry store inside a California mall this week are being described by police as acting "so casual it was almost scary." The incident, which was captured on video, happened yesterday afternoon at Prestigio Jewelers at the Merced Mall. "We don't have any information at this time indicating that they're dangerous. Obviously, they're willing to commit crimes, but nothing that indicates they're dangerous to the public," according to police.

SOURCE: 8 February 2022, Fox News

(U) Pomona – FBI Arrests Boogaloo Extremist Member After Gun Sales Meeting

(U) The FBI arrested a man living in Pomona late last month after he apparently attempted to sell gun parts to a local group of anti-government extremists to make their firearms more deadly and easier to conceal, according to court documents. Matthew Edward Chen was arrested on 28 January, about a week after he sold three auto sears — devices that can be attached to a firearm to make it fully automatic — to a purported member of the "Cali Bois," a California-based group that subscribes to an ideology known as "Boogaloo," an online movement that wants to bring down the US government by encouraging civil war through violent acts.

SOURCE: 8 February 2022, Press Enterprise

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Texas – Border Patrol Rescues 132 Migrants from Cargo Trailer

(U) El Paso – El Paso Sector Border Patrol Agents found 132 migrants inside a commercial cargo trailer during a human smuggling attempt in far east El Paso, Monday night. The incident began late Sunday night, when Ysleta Border Patrol Agents assigned to the Anti-Smuggling unit received information regarding suspected smuggling activity taking place at a vacant building. Officials say an immigration vehicle stop was conducted on the tractor trailer, by agents, discovering 132 migrants crammed inside the trailer. The group of rescued migrants included two unaccompanied children from Guatemala, and 130 adults from Guatemala, Honduran, Mexico, and Ecuador.

SOURCE: 8 February 2022, Western Slope Now

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia - Study: Opioid Overdose Deaths Cost US Economy \$1 Trillion a Year

(U) Washington – Opioid overdose deaths cost the US economy \$1 trillion a year, the US Commission on Combating Synthetic Opioid Trafficking said yesterday, underlining the "direct and escalating threat" the opioid epidemic poses to the economy, public health and safety, and national security. Between June 2020 and May 2021, 100,000 Americans died from drug overdoses, 30% higher than the year before and more than double the number of deaths caused by car accidents or gun violence during that period. SOURCE: 8 February 2022, Forbes

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(U) District of Columbia – Second Gentleman Evacuated from Event Due to Bomb Threat

(U) Washington – Second gentleman Doug Emhoff was whisked away by Secret Service agents after a bomb threat was called in to Dunbar High School in Washington, DC, where the vice president's husband was making an appearance. Pool reports indicated an agent told Emhoff "we have to go" before Dunbar's principal was removed moments later. An announcement at the school at around 2:34 p.m. called on teachers to evacuate the school.

SOURCE: 8 February 2022, New York Post

(U) Florida - Men Connected to Neo-Nazi Group Involved in Violent Protest Remain Jailed

(U) Brevard County – Joshua Terrell, 46, and Jason Brown, 47, two members of a self-described neo-Nazi group remained booked in the Brevard County Jail Complex after being arrested last week in connection with an anti-Semitic demonstration that turned violent in Orange County. The pair, along with Burt Colucci, 45, Lakeland, was taken into custody on 4 February. Terrell and Colucci, described as the leader of the Kissimmee-based group, were charged with battery with a hate crime enhancement. SOURCE: 8 February 2022, Florida Today

(U) New York – Two Arrested for Alleged Conspiracy to Launder \$4.5 Billion in Stolen Cryptocurrency

(U) Manhattan – Ilya Lichtenstein, 34, and his wife, Heather Morgan, 31, both of New York City, were arrested yesterday in Manhattan for an alleged conspiracy to launder cryptocurrency that was stolen during the 2016 hack of Bitfinex, a virtual currency exchange, presently valued at approximately \$4.5 billion. Thus far, law enforcement has seized over \$3.6 billion in cryptocurrency linked to that hack. SOURCE: 8 February 2022, <u>US Department of Justice</u>

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Belgium - Police Arrest 13 in Anti-Terror Raids

(U) Antwerp – More than 100 Belgian police have raided multiple locations around the city of Antwerp, detaining 13 people suspected of links to a terrorist group. The operation was launched under the authority of anti-terror magistrates as part of a broader investigation, federal prosecutors said in a statement. "An Antwerp group within the Salafist extremist milieu has come under scrutiny and the aim of this operation was to further map out the group's activities," it says. Antwerp was the base of the extremist group Sharia4Belgium, which was founded in 2010, and several members went on to fight for extremist groups in Syria.

SOURCE: 8 February 2022, Times of Israel

(U) France - Main Suspect in Bataclan Terror Attack Gives First Testimony

(U) Paris – Salah A., the suspected lone survivor of the terrorist group that carried out a series of attacks in Paris more than six years ago, is set to give his first testimony today. Salah A. allegedly took part in an attack on the Bataclan concert hall on 13 November 2015, in which at least 89 people died. ISIS claimed responsibility for the attacks that day that also targeted restaurants and bars killing, in total, 130 people and injuring several hundred more. On the same night, three individuals blew themselves up outside the Stade de France during a football match between France and Germany.

SOURCE: 8 February 2022, Deutsche Walle

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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